

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 188248
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:CMONROE:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA:WCRAWFORD

S/S-O:TMARTIN

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

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O 260136Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 188248

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, SY, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SYRIAN CHARGE ABOUCHAER ON LEBANON

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY CRAWFORD AND NEA/ARN DRAPER MET

WITH SYRIAN CHARGE ABOUCHAER AT 17:30 ON JULY 25 TO URGE

THAT SYRIA DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS

TO BRING AN END TO THE HADATH FIGHTING (GENERALLY FOLLOW-

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ING LINES OF STATE 187079 - NOTAL). CRAWFORD REVIEWED ALL
OF THE THINGS THAT THE USG HAD BEEN DOING--BEFORE AND
AFTER JULY 6 CEASEFIRE--TO PRESERVE THE CEASEFIRE, TAMP
DOWN PROVOCATIONS, AND SET THE STAGE FOR A NEGOTIATED
RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS CAUSING THE FIGHTING. CRAWFORD
STRESSED WE WANTED TO WORK WITH THE SYRIANS TOWARDS A
SATISFACTORY SOLUTION, BUT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF FIGHTING

MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE. ABOUCHAER RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT SYRIAN TROOPS WERE IN LEBANON AS PART OF THE ARAB PEACE KEEPING FORCE, THAT IT WAS FOLLOWING THE ORDERS OF SARKIS, BUT COULD NOT TAKE ATTACKS ENDLESSLY AND HAD TO RESPOND WITH FORCE TO FORCE. ON THE WHOLE ABOUCHAER RESPONDED POSITIVELY, APPARENTLY RECOGNIZING THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT HAVE THE ANSWER TO EVERY ASPECT OF THIS COMPLICATED AND DANGEROUS SITUATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE VOICED SUSPICIONS THAT THE U.S. MIGHT HAVE NOT MADE THIS DEMARCHE IF ATHERTON HAD NOT BEEN IN THE AREA AND IF SECRETARY VANCE WERE NOT PREPARING

TO MOVE FORWARD ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN A VISIT TO THE AREA. CRAWFORD ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE SYRIANS TODAY IN ANY EVENT. VANCE

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